



# SECOND FRONT

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

### Sumter school board changes meeting dates

Because of board member schedule conflicts, Sumter School District has moved up the date for its next board of trustees meeting.

The district's scheduled April board meeting will occur on April 10 at the Lakewood High School fine arts center. Previously, it was scheduled for April 16.

A district staff member distributed an agenda for the meeting late Thursday.

To stay on a regular two-week meeting schedule, the board's regular monthly work session will occur on April 23, according to a district spokesperson. That meeting was originally scheduled for April 30.

### Pinewood hydrants to be tested in April

The Pinewood Fire Department will be testing water hydrants in the town of Pinewood during April.

### Sumter City Council to review draft budget

Sumter City Council will meet at 6 p.m. today in City Council Chambers, fourth floor of Sumter Opera House, 21 N. Main St., to receive a preliminary draft budget for fiscal year 2019.

Council will also consider second and final reading of an ordinance to transfer a portion of property at the Liberty Center, 12 W. Liberty St., to a neighboring building so the recipient can construct a second entrance and exit.

### Water hydrant tests set for North Wise Drive

The City of Sumter will perform fire hydrant flow tests on North Wise Drive from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, April 4 and 5. Water customers in the surrounding area may experience temporary discolored water.

Please direct any questions or concerns to the City of Sumter Public Services Department at (803) 436-2558.

### Part of Main Street closed through April 17

According to Sumter Police Department, a section of Main Street from Hampton Avenue to Liberty Street will be closed because of downtown construction through April 17.

Public parking is available at Liberty and Harvin streets, behind the Sumter Opera House and adjacent businesses; at Harvin Street and Hampton Avenue across from the Sumter Law Enforcement Center; in the parking garage at Sumter Street and Hampton Avenue; and alongside roads not affected by construction.

## CORRECTION

If you see a statement in error, contact the City Desk at 774-1226 or [pressrelease@theitem.com](mailto:pressrelease@theitem.com).

# Group holding free domestic violence seminar on April 14

BY KAYLA ROBINS  
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A tri-county women's group is coming to Sumter County next week to hold a seminar and fashion show aimed to promote awareness and prevention of domestic violence.

The focus of The Total Woman Teaching Series' The Total Woman Seminar and Spring Fashion Show, which is set for Saturday, April 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Good Shepherd Outreach Ministries at 118 Commerce St. in Sumter, is to decrease the injuries and fatalities resulting from criminal domestic violence in Sumter, Clarendon and Williamsburg counties, according to a news release.



HAMPTON

"The Total Woman Teaching Series' mission is to cultivate the lives of women by empowering them in mind, body and spirit," said Joan Hampton, CEO of the organization. "This includes providing a safe space for discourse on the topic of domestic violence and how it affects our communities."

Hampton, a former volunteer advocate with Sexual Trauma Services of the Midlands and former Domestic Violence Crisis Shelter manager for the Young Women's Christian Association of the Midlands Inc., is facilitating the networking event to promote domestic

violence awareness and provide resources to women in the tri-county area.

"South Carolina is consistently in the top 10 of states with the highest rate of females killed by males, even coming in at No. 1 in 2015, according to a report by the Violence Policy Center," the news release stated.

The event is free with reserved seating and includes a morning seminar on beauty, health, wealth and spirituality, a keynote speaker and a fashion show in the afternoon.

Women interested in attending should contact Hampton at (803) 775-0171 or [info@JoanDHampton.com](mailto:info@JoanDHampton.com) by Wednesday, April 9.



PHOTO BY ARMY SGT. MATT KUZARA / SPECIAL TO THE SUMTER ITEM

U.S. Congressman Ralph Norman meets USARCENT staff members during his briefing session as part of his visit to U.S. Army Central's Patton Hall on Friday. Norman took the opportunity to learn about USARCENT's mission and challenges that the organization faces, such as ensuring security of strategic maritime points and issues soldiers face at home.

## Norman makes 1st visit to USARCENT

BY KAYLA ROBINS  
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One of Sumter County's two congressmen in the U.S. House of Representatives visited the U.S. Army Central headquarters on Friday for the first time since taking office in June.

U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman, who represents South Carolina's 5th District, which encompasses Shaw Air Force Base where the headquarters (USARCENT) is located, met with USARCENT Commander Lt. Gen. Michael X. Garrett and other staff to discuss issues affecting soldiers who live in the district, which also includes Camden and much of the city of Sumter.

Norman, his district director, retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. David O'Neal, who served in the USARCENT communications section as an active duty U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and 5th District Liaison Freddie Gault learned about issues as far-ranging as ensuring freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, the value of forward positioned stock and force packages and local topics including schools and jobs for ARCENT families, according to a news release from Col. Angela Funaro of USARCENT Public Affairs.

Funaro wrote that Norman, who is a member of the House Small Business

Committee and the Committee on Science, Space and Technology — which holds jurisdiction over federal research and development unrelated to national defense — asked about the challenges facing the command staff, specifically mentioning that he was told maintenance was a "big concern" last time he visited the U.S. Air Force at Shaw.

Like many units across the Department of Defense, Funaro wrote, resourcing continues to be the biggest challenge that plagues the command.

"Continuing resolutions help ensure funding, but the impact of not having a predictable budget with which to plan is that we have to prioritize which units'

equipment requirements are going to be fulfilled and maintained to deployment standards before they are moved into theater," Garrett said in the release.

Norman "expressed surprise at the size and dynamic nature of the theater where USARCENT has distributed forces. The comment has forces arrayed across more than 15 of the 20 countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility," Funaro wrote. "USARCENT's forward posture and enduring presence help ensure homeland defense and protect U.S. interests."

"Everybody in Congress ought to come here," Norman said, "to see this to understand."



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